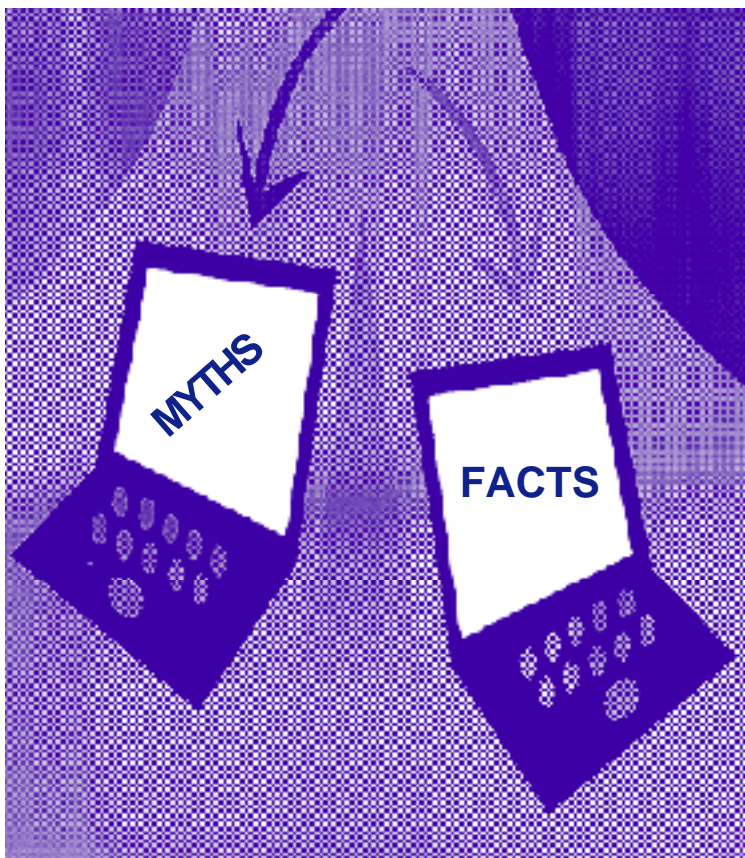


MYTHS & FACTS

about welfare in Michigan



State of Michigan
Family Independence Agency
www.michigan.gov/fia

WHAT IF... You had an accident and were permanently disabled?

WHAT IF... Your spouse left and you had to raise your children without adequate financial support?

WHAT IF... You lost your job and ran out of money before you could find a new job?

WHAT IF... You had medical problems and you had no health insurance?

WHAT IF... Someone abused you or your children?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

MYTHS & FACTS

about welfare in Michigan

Based on the premise that most people want financial independence for their families, Michigan has implemented the most extensive welfare reform initiative in the country, *To Strengthen Michigan Families*. It is built on four principles: encouraging employment, targeting financial support to families, increasing personal responsibility, and involving communities. It is carried out by the Family Independence Agency (FIA).

The FIA serves more than 750,000 people a month. Assistance programs include the Family Independence Program (FIP – formerly AFDC), Food Assistance (formerly called food stamps), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, and Child Development and Care.

Some people receive other help, such as help collecting child support, protective services for children and adults, foster care, juvenile justice, adoption, and independent living services. Beginning in October 1996, AFDC became the Family Independence Program (FIP). You will see the acronym used throughout this booklet.

Defining the scope of public assistance is difficult because people are often unfamiliar with programs and services. Misunderstandings lead to myths; we prefer to discuss the facts.

**PEOPLE ON WELFARE GET
TOO MUCH MONEY.**

MYTH

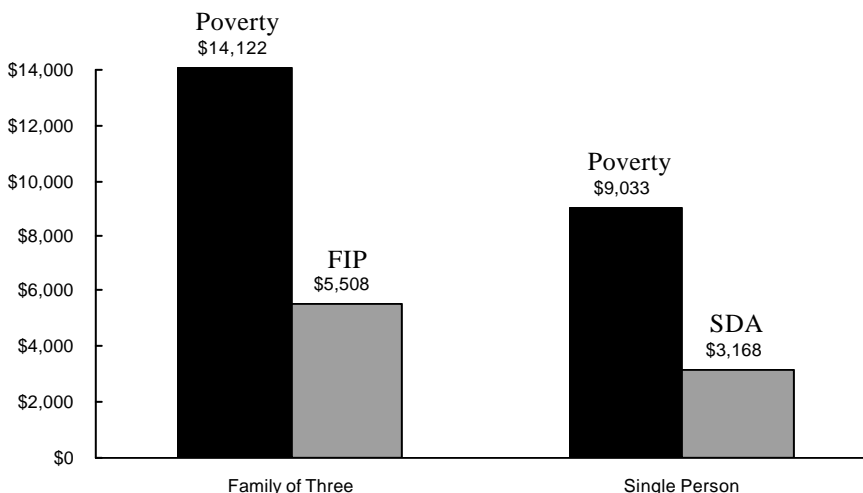
The monthly FIP payment in 2001 amounted to 39 percent of the federal poverty threshold. A typical family of three receives a monthly grant of \$459 or \$5.10 per day per person.

FACT

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) payment was \$246. For a single person this represents 35.1 percent of the poverty threshold.

Most FIP recipients also qualify for Food Assistance in amounts averaging \$67 per month per person.

**POVERTY THRESHOLD*/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN 2001
(ANNUAL AMOUNTS)**



*FIA estimate of final poverty threshold for 2001.

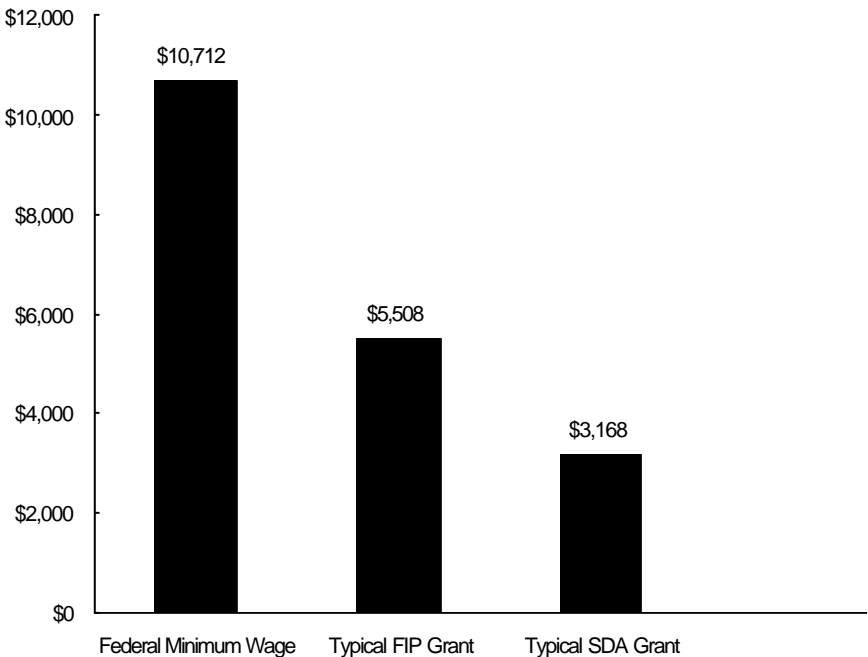
MYTH

**WELFARE PAYS BETTER
THAN A JOB.**

FACT

A full-time job in October 2001 at the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour pays \$10,712 per year. The typical FIP grant in 2001 was \$5,508 per year. The typical SDA grant in 2001 was \$3,168.

MINIMUM WAGE AND FIA GRANT AMOUNTS



*A FIP grant can be supplemented by earned income. Earned income of \$775 per month will close a case for a family size of three.

***MOST PEOPLE WOULD RATHER
STAY ON WELFARE THAN WORK.***

MYTH

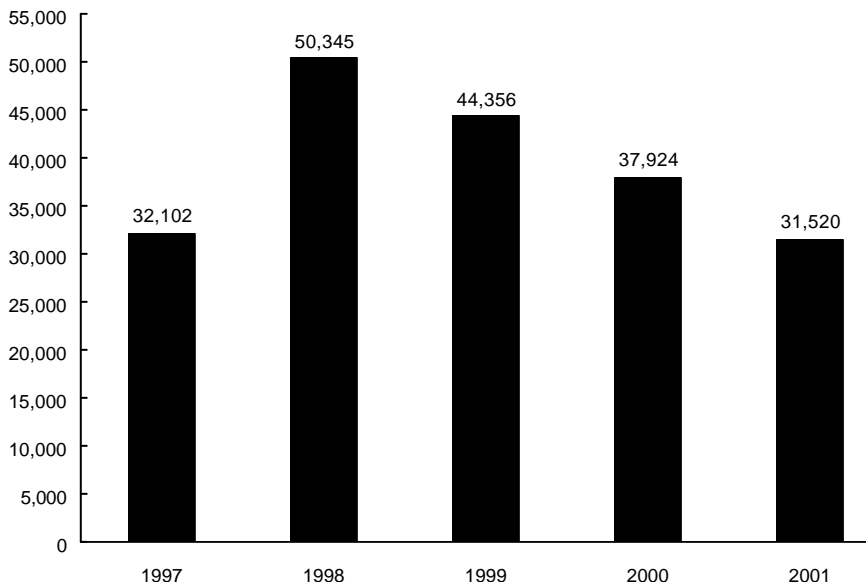
Most adults receiving FIP benefits and Food Assistance participate in Work First, which provides job skills and employment services.

FACT

Beginning October 1996, all adult FIP applicants are required to attend an orientation given by FIA and Michigan Department of Career Development. The one-time session explains the goals of employment and personal responsibility as a condition of receiving public assistance. Refusing to engage in Work First will lead to case closure or denial of benefits for applicants.

Since *To Strengthen Michigan Families* was implemented in 1992, more than 320,000 public assistance recipients found work and had their cases closed.

CASES CLOSED DUE TO EARNINGS FROM EMPLOYMENT



MYTH

***WELFARE MOTHERS KEEP
HAVING MORE BABIES SO
THEY CAN GET MORE MONEY.***

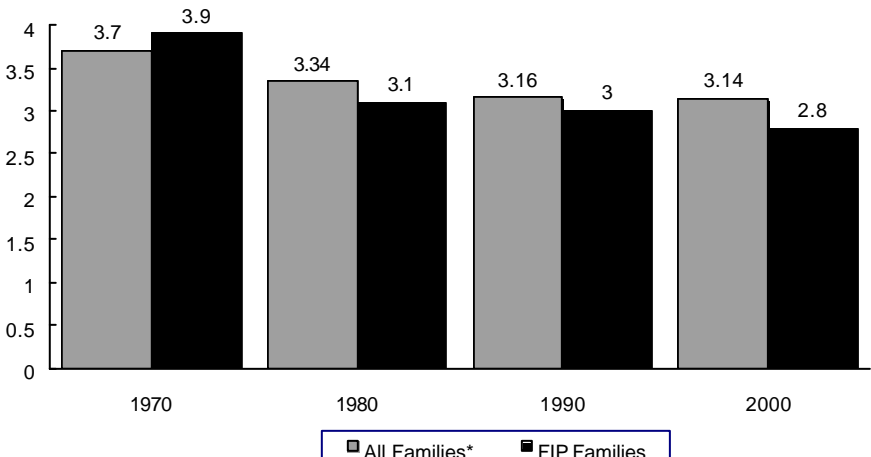
FACT

The average FIP family in Michigan is getting smaller.

The size of a FIP family — typically a mother and two children — has declined steadily over the past 25 years and is actually smaller than the average Michigan family.

The increase in a FIP grant for an additional child is less than \$100 per month.

MICHIGAN FAMILY SIZE



*U.S. Census Bureau

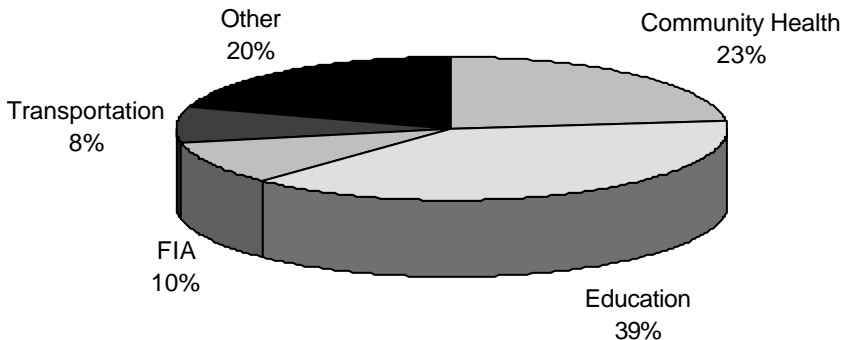
***MOST OF THE STATE BUDGET
IS SPENT ON WELFARE.***

MYTH

About 10 percent of the state budget is spent on services provided by FIA. Medicaid services are paid from the Community Health budget, although FIA agencies determine eligibility for medical assistance.

FACT

**STATE SPENDING FROM STATE RESOURCES
FY 2001-2002 BUDGET**



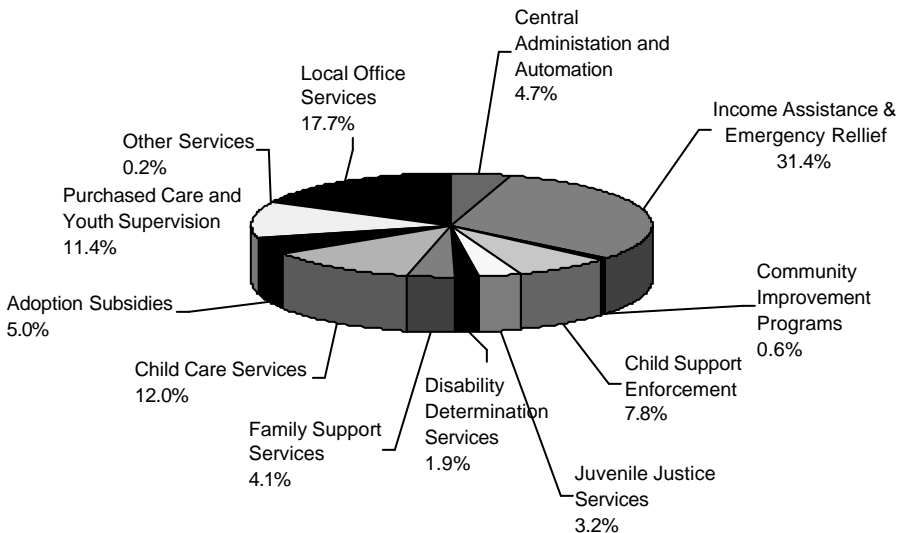
MYTH

***MOST MONEY APPROPRIATED
FOR FAMILY INDEPENDENCE
SERVICES IS SPENT ON
ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAMS.***

FACT

About 95 percent of the FIA budget is used to provide direct services to clients.

FIA FISCAL YEAR 2002 APPROPRIATIONS*



*Totals rounded to nearest percent.

***SOME PEOPLE WORK AND STILL
GET WELFARE — THAT MUST BE
CHEATING.***

MYTH

Michigan's welfare reform initiative *To Strengthen Michigan Families* brought about program changes including increased incentives which encourage public assistance recipients to work.

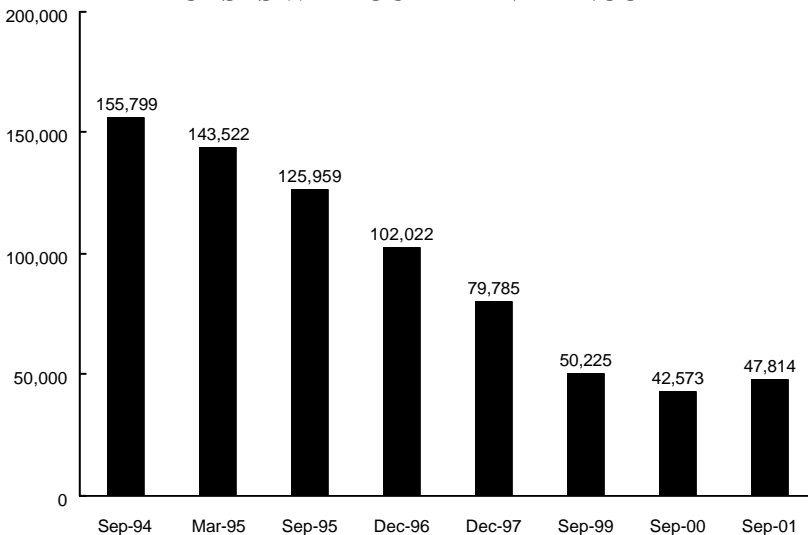
FACT

Michigan believes every citizen has something to contribute to his/her community and should do something in exchange for public assistance received — work is always the desired activity.

Public assistance recipients are encouraged to accept jobs which provide experience, improve self-confidence, and frequently lead to better jobs or higher wages.

About 26 percent of adult FIP recipients have earned income. This reduces welfare expenditures and leads to more recipients becoming self-supporting. The declining trend in cases without earned income mirrors a statewide decline in total FIP cases.

FIP CASES WITHOUT EARNED INCOME



MYTH

MOST PEOPLE CHEAT ON WELFARE AND NOTHING IS DONE TO STOP THEM.

FACT

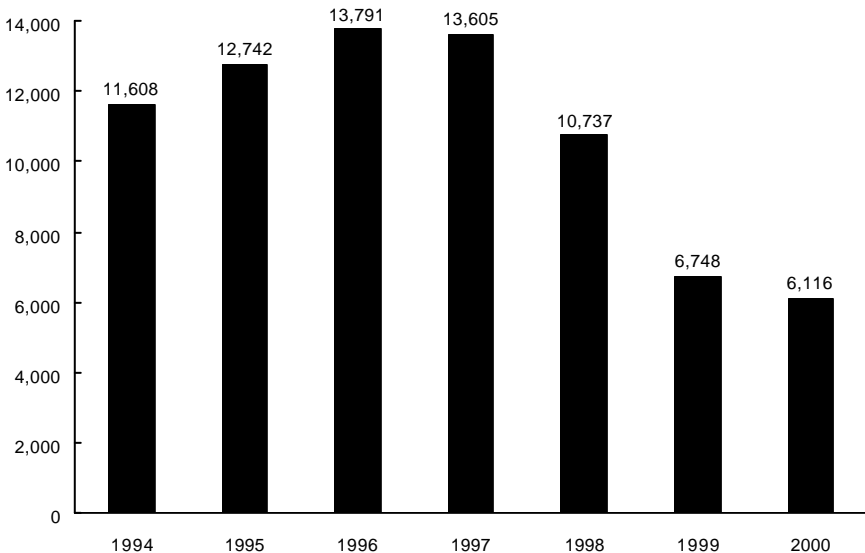
The number of public assistance recipients who commit fraud is very small. To reduce this, *To Strengthen Michigan Families* expanded sanctions for welfare fraud. These were initiated in 1992.

Progressive sanctions are imposed on people convicted of welfare fraud: loss of eligibility for 12 months at first conviction, 2 years the second time, and permanent ineligibility for public assistance after a third offense.

Cases referred for prosecution often result in consent agreements to pay back state funds.

If you suspect fraud, contact your local Family Independence Agency office or call the toll-free fraud hotline at **1-800-222-8558**.

COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO PROSECUTORS FROM THE FIA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



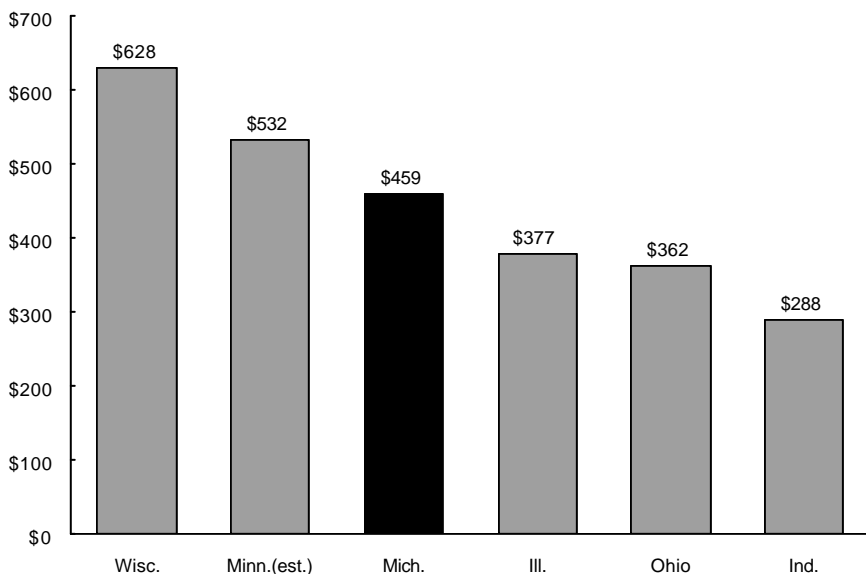
**HIGH WELFARE PAYMENTS
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO MOVE
TO MICHIGAN FROM OTHER
STATES.**

MYTH

FACT

Michigan's average FIP payment is similar to other states in the Great Lakes region. In most cases FIP payments are lower than \$459 per month because of allowable earned income. In March 2002, the average FIP payment in Wayne County was \$400.

**TYPICAL FIP PAYMENTS*
FAMILY OF THREE**



*Based on the payment in the most populous county in each state in March 2001.

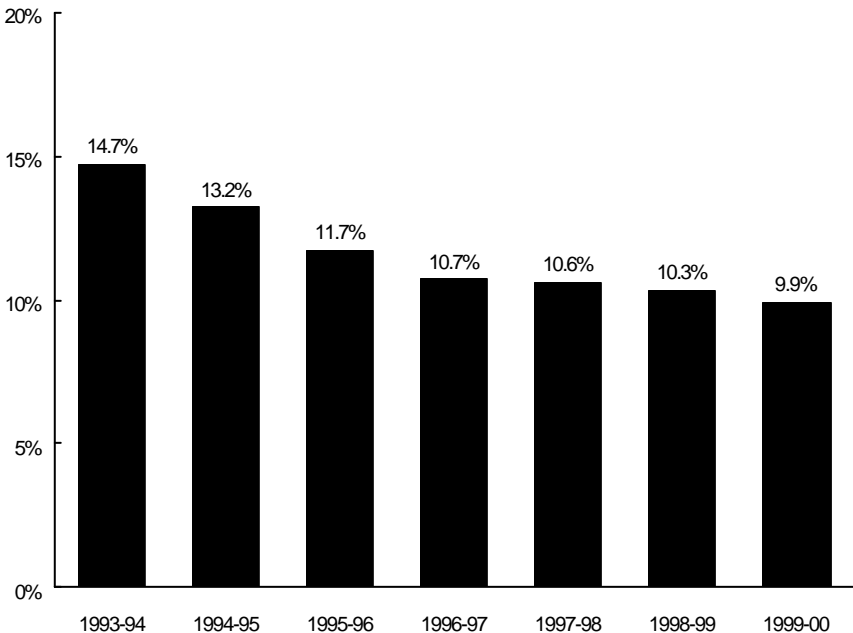
MYTH

***WELFARE REFORM HAS CREATED
MORE POOR PEOPLE.***

FACT

While Michigan's population increased from 9.5 million to 9.9 million from 1995 to 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reports a declining percent of people living at or below poverty in the welfare reform period.

PERCENT OF MICHIGAN RESIDENTS LIVING AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL



Source: U.S. Census Bureau two-year moving average.

***PEOPLE BUY ROASTS AND STEAKS
WITH WELFARE. I CAN ONLY AF-
FORD HAMBURGER.***

MYTH

The typical Food Assistance benefits allotment in 2001 was \$203 per month for a family of three. This amounts to \$6.70 per day and \$2.23 per meal.

FACT

Food Assistance benefits are intended to increase the food-purchasing power of a household, leading to more nutritious meals. They are intended to supplement, not meet, all of a family's food needs. They cannot be used for non-food items such as soap, pet food, paper products, or alcoholic beverages.

Since mid-2001, Food Assistance and other cash assistance benefits have been delivered electronically via the "Bridge Card". The magnetic swipe card accesses benefits from separate customer accounts and is used like an ATM card. Food stamps are no longer issued.



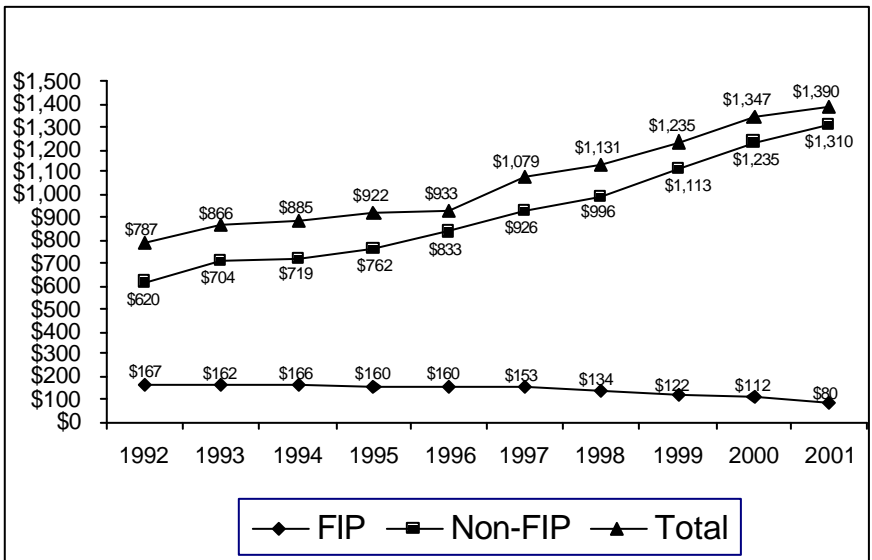
MYTH

**IF THE GOVERNMENT COLLECTED
CHILD SUPPORT, FIP COULD BE
ELIMINATED.**

FACT

Michigan collects more than \$1 billion in child support annually. It has one of the strongest child support collection programs in the nation. State law allows for license revocation when child support isn't paid, and allows judges to retroactively adjust support orders when income is under-reported or not reported. In 1998, Michigan Friend of the Court offices began referring parents who could not pay their child support because they had no income to Michigan Works! Agencies for assistance in gaining employment. This alternative support enforcement process has resulted in more support being paid and fewer non-custodial parents being put in jail for failure to pay their support. Public assistance families that do not cooperate in collecting support may have their grant reduced.

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS FIP AND NON-FIP CASE RELATED (In Millions)



***CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ARE
INCREASING AND NO ONE IS DOING
ANYTHING ABOUT IT.***

MYTH

The safety of children is the top priority of the FIA. To ensure that, a review is completed on every protective services complaint received by FIA.

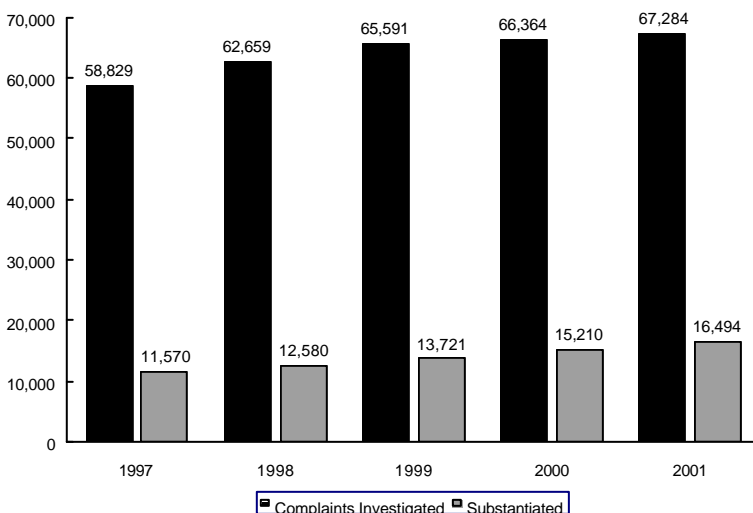
FACT

In July 1999, the FIA began a new five-category disposition system for child abuse and neglect complaints. Under the new system the FIA provides services in the most serious cases and communities provide services in less severe cases.

A 24-hour number for each county is listed in most telephone books under state or county government, children's protective services or just protective services. A toll-free number is available 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week for parents who are feeling stress or want to talk to a concerned listener: **1-800-942-HELP.**

FIA domestic violence services provide short-term crisis intervention services to families through contracts with private agencies.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMPLAINTS FY 1997-2001



MYTH

IF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS REPORTED, SOCIAL WORKERS WILL TAKE THE CHILDREN AWAY.

FACT

In recent years a combination of new state laws and other factors have resulted in more children being removed in cases where child abuse and neglect is reported.

But children are rarely removed from home. For every 1,000 Child Protective Services complaints received by the FIA, only three cases result in children being removed from home and placed in foster care. There are usually two children per case.

The Family Independence Agency does not remove children from their families without court involvement and approval. The goal of protective services workers is to protect children and help parents care for their children — in their own homes if possible. In severe situations the Family Court may order children to be removed and placed in foster care. But the goal is to return children to their birth home or an adoptive home when it is safe to do so. The child's safety is always the deciding factor.

In most cases when children are removed from home the goal is to reunite the family. Family preservation workers work in the home with troubled families to help keep families intact. Wraparound services, kinship care and other services complement foster care services to help families remain safely intact.



**WELFARE REFORM FORCES PEOPLE
TO GET LOW-PAYING JOBS AND LOSE
ALL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS.**

MYTH

In Michigan, cash assistance customers are provided with work-related supports as they earn more and leave welfare.

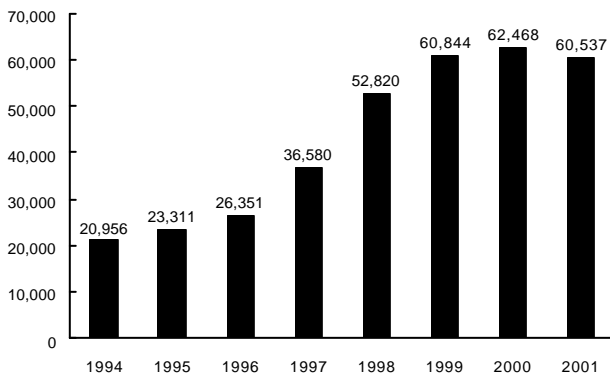
FACT

Michigan provides a broad array of work-related supports to persons trying to work their way off Family Independence Program benefits. State agencies offer child care, family support services, transportation, work-related clothing and equipment, Medicaid and other health coverage to persons as they work their way off welfare.

A two-year survey of more than 18,000 employed FIP recipients conducted by the FIA between 1997-1999 showed 35 percent received child care benefits, 21 percent received transportation supports including car repairs, bus tickets, car insurance or assistance with a car purchase. Another 16 percent received assistance with clothing or equipment related to work. Current policies allow FIP recipients to work, attend school and study and still collect benefits. Another policy allows FIP recipients to receive technical training in a vocational area in demand in their local area while still collecting benefits.

In fiscal 2001, the Family Independence Agency provided child care services to an average of 60,537 low-income families and 118,698 children each month.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE CASE PAYMENTS PER YEAR FISCAL YEARS 1994 THROUGH 2001



Local Office Directory

FIA offices are located in all 83 counties of Michigan

Alcona County FIA
205 N. State St.
P. O. Box 586
Harrisville MI 48740
(989) 724-6291

Alger County FIA
101 Court St.
Munising MI 49862
(906) 387-4400

Allegan County FIA
2233 33rd St.
Allegan MI 49010
(616) 673-7700

Alpena County FIA
711 W. Chisholm
Alpena MI 49707
(989) 354-7200

Antrim County FIA
205 E. Cayuga St.
P.O. Box 316
Bellaire MI 49615
(231) 533-8664

Arenac County FIA
3709 Deep River Rd.
Standish MI 48658
(989) 846-4551

Baraga County FIA
108 Main St.
P. O. Box 10
Baraga MI 49909
(906) 353-4700

Barry County FIA
430 Barfield Dr.
Hastings MI 49058
(616) 948-3200

Bay County FIA
1399 W. Center Rd.
Essexville MI 48732
(989) 895-2100

Benzie County FIA
Government Center
448 Court Plaza
P. O. Box 114
Beulah MI 49617
(231) 882-4443

Berrien County FIA
401 Eighth St.
P. O. Box 1407
Benton Harbor MI 49023-1407
(616) 934-2000

Branch County FIA
388 Keith Wilhelm Dr.
Coldwater MI 49036
(517) 279-4200

Calhoun County FIA
190 E. Michigan Ave.
P. O. Box 490
Battle Creek MI 49016-0490
(616) 966-1284

Cass County FIA
325 M-62
Cassopolis MI 49031-1056
(616) 445-0200

Charlevoix County FIA
6479 M-66
P. O. Box 37
Charlevoix MI 49720
(231) 547-4471

Cheboygan County FIA
827 S. Huron St.
Cheboygan MI 49721-2209
(231) 627-8500

Chippewa County FIA
463 E. 3 Mile Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783
(906) 632-3377

Clare County FIA
725 Richard Drive
Harrison MI 48625
(989) 539-4260

Clinton County FIA
201 West Railroad St.
St. Johns MI 48879
(989) 224-5500

Crawford County FIA
230 Huron
P. O. Box 702
Grayling MI 49738
(989) 348-7691

Delta County FIA
2940 College Ave.
Escanaba MI 49829-9596
(906) 786-5394

Dickinson County FIA
1238 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain MI 49801
(906) 774-1484

Eaton County FIA
1050 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte MI 48813
(517) 543-0860

Emmet County FIA
2229 Summit Park Dr.
Petoskey MI 49770
(231) 348-1600

Genesee County FIA*
125 E. Union St.
P. O. Box 1620
Flint MI 48501
(810) 760-2200

Gladwin County FIA
250 North St.
Gladwin MI 48624
(989) 426-3300

Gogebic County FIA
301 E. Lead St.
Bessemer MI 49911
(906) 663-6200

Grand Traverse County FIA
920 Hastings St.
P. O. Box 1250
Traverse City MI 49685-1250
(231) 941-3900

Gratiot County FIA
201 Commerce Dr.
Ithaca MI 48847
(989) 875-5181

Hillsdale County FIA
40 Care Dr.
Hillsdale MI 49242-1096
(517) 439-2200

Houghton County FIA
County Welfare Bldg.
200 Quincy St.
P. O. Box 630
Hancock MI 49930
(906) 482-0500

Huron County FIA
1911 Sand Beach Rd.
Bad Axe MI 48413
(989) 269-9201

Ingham County FIA
5303 S. Cedar St.
P. O. Box 30088
Lansing MI 48909
(517) 887-9400

Ionia County FIA
920 E. Lincoln
P. O. Box 506
Ionia MI 48846
(616) 527-5200

Iosco County FIA
2145 E. Huron Rd.
East Tawas MI 48730
(989) 362-0300

Iron County FIA
337 Brady Avenue
P. O. Box 250
Caspian MI 49915
(906) 265-9958

Isabella County FIA
1475 S. Bamber Rd.
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858
(989) 772-8400

Jackson County FIA
301 E. Louis Glick Hwy.
P. O. Box 3007
Jackson MI 49204
(517) 780-7400

Kalamazoo County FIA
322 E. Stockbridge Ave.
Kalamazoo MI 49001
(616) 337-4900

Kalkaska County FIA
503 N. Birch St.
Kalkaska MI 49646
(231) 258-8606

Kent County FIA
415 Franklin, S.E.
Grand Rapids MI 49507
(616) 247-6000

Keweenaw County FIA
County Welfare Bldg.
200 Quincy St.
P. O. Box 630
Hancock MI 49930
(906) 337-3302

Lake County FIA
4459 S. M-37
Baldwin MI 49304
(231) 745-8159

Lapeer County FIA
1505 Suncrest Dr.
P. O. Box 400
Lapeer MI 48446
(810) 667-0801

Leelanau County FIA
7322 E. Duck Lake Rd.
Lake Leelanau MI 49653
(231) 256-6100

Lenawee County FIA
1040 S. Winter St.
Suite 3013
Adrian MI 49221
(517) 264-6300

Livingston County FIA
2300 E. Grand River, Ste 1
Howell MI 48843
(517) 548-0200

Luce County FIA
500 W. McMillan
P. O. Box 27
Newberry MI 49868
(906) 293-5144

Mackinac County FIA
199 Ferry Lane
St. Ignace MI 49781
(906) 643-9550

Macomb County FIA*
19700 Hall Rd., Suite A
Clinton Township MI 48038-1478
(586) 412-6100

Manistee County FIA
1672 U.S. 31 South
Manistee MI 49660
(231) 723-8375

Marquette County FIA
Courthouse Annex
234 W. Baraga Ave.
Marquette MI 49855
(906) 228-9691

Mason County FIA
915 Diana St.
Ludington MI 49431
(231) 845-7391

Mecosta County FIA
800 Water Tower Rd.
Big Rapids MI 49307
(231) 796-4300

Menominee County FIA
2612 10th St.
Menominee MI 49858
(906) 863-9965

Midland County FIA
1509 Washington, Ste. A
P. O. Box 1609
Midland MI 48641
(989) 839-1100

Missaukee County FIA
10641 W. Watergate Rd.
P. O. Box 309
Cadillac MI 49601
(231) 779-4500

Monroe County FIA
1051 S. Telegraph
Monroe MI 48161
(734) 243-7200

Montcalm County FIA
609 N. State
P. O. Box 278
Stanton MI 48888
(989) 831-8400

Montmorency County FIA
M-32 West
P. O. Box 427
Atlanta MI 49709
(989) 785-4218

Muskegon County FIA
2700 Baker St.
P. O. Box 4290
Muskegon Heights MI 49444
(231) 733-3700

Newaygo County FIA
1018 Newell
P. O. Box 640
White Cloud MI 49349
(231) 689-5500

Oakland County FIA*
Stoneridge East, Suite 200
41000 N. Woodward Ave.
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304-2263
(248) 975-4800

Oceana County FIA
4081 W. Polk Rd.
P. O. Box 70
Hart MI 49420
(231) 873-7251

Ogemaw County FIA
444 E. Houghton Ave.
P. O. Box 307
West Branch MI 48661
(989) 345-5135

Ontonagon County FIA
730 S. 7th St.
Ontonagon MI 49953
(906) 884-4951

Osceola County FIA
220 E. Church St.
P. O. Box 63
Reed City MI 49677
(231) 832-4100

Oscoda County FIA
200 W. Fifth St.
P. O. Drawer 849
Mio MI 48647
(989) 826-4000

Otsego County FIA
800 Livingston Blvd.
Suite 3A
Gaylord MI 49735
(517) 732-1702

Ottawa County FIA
12185 James St.
Holland MI 49424
(616) 394-7200

Presque Isle County FIA
1242 W. Third St.
Rogers City MI 49779
(989) 734-2108

Roscommon County FIA
111 Union St.
P. O. Box 179
Roscommon MI 48653
(989) 275-5107

Saginaw County FIA
411 E. Genesee
P. O. Box 5070
Saginaw MI 48605-9931
(989) 758-1500

St. Clair County FIA
220 Fort St.
Port Huron MI 48060
(810) 966-2000

St. Joseph County FIA
692 E. Main St.
Centreville MI 49032
(616) 467-1200

Sanilac County FIA
515 S. Sandusky Rd.
Sandusky MI 48471
(810) 648-4420

Schoolcraft County FIA
Courthouse - Room 175A
300 Walnut St.
Manistique MI 49854
(906) 341-2114

Shiawassee County FIA
1975 W. Main
Suite 1
Owosso MI 48867
(989) 725-3200

Tuscola County FIA
1365 Cleaver Rd.
Caro MI 48723
(989) 673-9100

Van Buren County FIA
57170 C.R. 681
P. O. Box 7
Hartford MI 49057
(616) 621-2800

Washtenaw County FIA
22 Center St.
Ypsilanti MI 48198-9965
(734) 481-2000

Wayne County FIA*
Cadillac Place
3040 W. Grand River, Ste. 5-650
Detroit MI 48202
(313) 456-1216

Wexford County FIA
10641 W. Watergate Rd.
P. O. Box 309
Cadillac MI 49601
(231) 779-4500

*Wayne County has 28 District
Offices to meet the needs of clients
in their communities. Other
counties with district offices are:
Genesee (4), Macomb (3) and
Oakland (5).

TOLL-FREE LINES

* Adult Abuse Helpline	1 (800) 996-6228
* Child Abuse (Help for Parents)	1 (800) 942-4357
DDS - Southwestern Area	1 (800) 829-7763
* Domestic Violence	1 (800) 799-7233
* Emergency Shelter	1 (800) A-SHELTER
	or dial 1 (800) 274-3583
Home Heating	1 (800) 292-5650
Medical Assistance (Clients)	1 (800) 642-3195
Managed Care	
Medical Assistance (Providers)	1 (800) 292-2550
Managed Care	
Michigan 4C Association	1 (800) 950-4171
* Parent Empowerment Project (PEP)	1 (800) 262-0650
* Runaway Assistance Program	1 (800) 292-4517
Social Security	1 (800) 772-1213
Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)	1 (800) 243-2TIP
	or dial 1 (800) 243-2847
Welfare Fraud (Clients)	1 (800) 222-8558
Health Care Fraud (Providers)	1 (800) 242-2873

*24-hour availability

STATE INFORMATION LINES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH	(517) 373-3740
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH (MEDICAID)	(517) 335-5003
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY	(517) 373-2035 (517) 373-8071 TTY
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CONSTITUENT SERVICES	(517) 335-7858
DEPARTMENT OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT	(517) 241-4000
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	(517) 373-1110

This document may be viewed at the
Family Independence Agency website:
www.michigan.gov/fia

The Family Independence Agency will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to an FIA office in your county.

QUANTITY: 15,000
COST: \$3,606.84 (.2404 ea.)
AUTHORITY: FIA Director